

# *How To* *Clean A Dead Body* *In Islam*



*By*

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*The Imaam Of Islamic Center Of East Madison*

دار الفُرْقَانِ

*Dar alfurqan*

# *How To*

## *Clean A Dead Body In Islam*



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All praise and thanks belongs to Allah (Azza Wa'jal). We thank him as he deserves to be thanked, we seek His help and forgiveness, and we seek refuge in Allah (Azza Wa'jal) from the evil of our own souls and our shortcomings. Whoever Allah guides none can misguide them and whoever Allah misguides none can guide them.

I testify that there is no deity that deserves to be worshipped except Allah alone, without any partners, and I testify that Muhammad, (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam), is His servant and His messenger.

Verily, the most truthful speech is the speech of Allah, the Quran, the best of guidance is the guidance of Muhammad (sallallahu alayhi wa sallam), his sunnah, and the worst affairs are newly invented or innovated matters in the religion. Every newly innovated matter is a religious innovation, and every

religious innovation is misguidance, and every misguidance is in the Hellfire.

To proceed: A brother amongst the Muslim funeral management team in Madison Wisconsin, asked me to give a short and precise summary on how to prepare and wash a body of a deceased Muslim in accordance with Islam. I'll take this opportunity to provide key rulings on the rituals of preparing and washing the body of a deceased Muslim. I ask Allah (Azza Wa'jal) to bless this effort and make it beneficial to Muslims, and reward the brothers who inspired this initiative.



## Instructions On How To Wash The Body Of A Deceased Muslim In Accordance With Islam.

### Level 1

#### **Who should be appointed to wash the dead body:**

1-A person elected to prepare and wash the body of the deceased Muslim should be someone who is trustworthy, merciful, and has enough knowledge about the rituals.

2- He/she should avoid exposing whatever they encounter during the washing of the deceased Muslim. The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, “He who washes a dead body and conceals what he notices of physical defects, he will be forgiven forty times.”

3-He/she also should do it for the sake of Allah, and it's highly recommended that these volunteers do not get paid for the honorable service they do.

4-Men should wash men, and women should wash women. This excludes a husband and a wife. Both husband and wife can wash each other.

5-if a deceased Muslim gives recommendation (Al wasiyya) regarding who they want to wash their body, then, these people should wash the body, except if their recommendations goes against the ruling of Islam, such as commanding a non-Muslim, or opposite gender, or someone who does not have proper knowledge about how to wash a body of a deceased Muslim.

6- All deceased muslims must be washed, only exception is for those who died in the battle of legal islamic expedition (jihad). If the body of a deceased Muslim cannot be washed due to the lack of water, or accidents such as fire incidents that severely alter the body to an extent that it cannot be washed, in this case At-tayammum should be offered on them. This Tayammum is the same as the salah Tayammum.

## **Level 2**

### **Items needed for the process.**

1-Make sure that there is pure water available.

2-you need sidr-kāfur as instructed by the Messenger of Allah peace be upon him, and also perfume. If you do not have sidr, then use soap, you also need cotton, you may need air freshener or good fragrant sometime to ensure that your surrounding constantly smells good, depending on the situation of the deceased.

3, have gloves and a piece of cloth to be wrapped over the hand and two towels. One towel will be used to cover the private part of the deceased Muslim, and the other towel is for drying the body before putting on the kafan.

4-provide 3 buckets and fill them with water if you do not have faucets. If there is a water faucet then two buckets filled with water is enough, put one cup of sidr in one bucket and mix it very well, put kāfur in another bucket.



5-before you start to wash, make sure you have at least two people who are trustworthy to help you. One to help to turn the body and the other to pour or apply water over the body while washing, you may need more than two people depending on how heavy the body is.



### **Level 3**

#### **How to wash the death body:**

A deceased Muslim should be washed the same as we perform Ghusl ritual baths known as Janāba. Some scholars recommend the trimming of the moustaches, the clipping of the nails, and shaving hair from their armpits. The hair of a deceased Muslim woman can be untied during washing, and braided with three cornrow braids after washing and place them behind her back. Anything unIslamic or haram found on the body should be removed, such as hair extension and fake nails. When a pregnant woman dies, an operation is permissible if the baby has a chance of surviving.

It is recommended to do the washing in odd numbers, 3 times, if that is not enough then 5, if that is not enough then 7, or more. If the body is washed only one time sufficiently, it is still permissible. Make sure anything attached to the body before washing is removed, like watches, rings, necklace, etc.

## **Now let's begin washing the dead body.**

1-Wear a face mask if possible and gloves.

2-place the body in a convenient and suitable place and hidden from people. Make sure the body is laying on the back and facing up. Make sure that the arms and knees are Straightened. Occasionally, you may need to pour water on the limbs while straightening them sometimes, especially if the body was placed in a freezer for a while.

3-Take one of the towels or sheets and cover the private area of the body. Cover From the navel to the knees. remove the clothes it had on and use scissor cut it under the towel if necessary while their awra (private part) is not showing.

4- Lift up the head of the body gently and keep pressing on the stomach softly, so that anything remaining excretion comes out . wrap your left hands while wearing gloves with a piece of cleaning cloth.

This is to ensure that you do not touch the private part of deceased directly. White cleaning cloth is recommended so that you can see whatever touches it clearly, Then put your hand under the towel and clean it well. Pour water on the private area to clean everything. You may also open the mouth sometimes, to remove any excess saliva in their mouth, especially for those who used to smoke.

5- Dispose the cleaning cloth used to clean any excretion, dirt, or waste and change your gloves.

6-Perform wudu on the body the same way we perform Wudu for salah. Begin with Bismillah before starting the Wudu on the body. Begin with the palm of the hands, make sure you wash the right before the left, and do not put the water in their mouth and nose as we do in wudu. Wet your hands or cotton or piece of cloth and wipe the teeth and nose with your wet fingers or wet cotton. This is to avoid having water going inside the body.

7-Once the wudu completed, take the water that is mixed with sidr and wash the head of the body 3

times including their beard. It is recommended to take the lather or foam of sidr to wash the head and beard to ensure that it is clean. One of your helpers can put their hands on the mouth and the nose of the deceased to Make sure the water does not goes inside the mouth and nose when washing the face.

8-Then wash the entire right side of the body, turn the body to the side when washing the right side, so that you wash both front and back, and then turn it to other side and wash the left side as well, the front and the back. Make sure their awra not showing when turning the body.

9-Then repeat the washing the second time. Wash the entire right side and then the left side as you did previously.

10-Take the water that is mixed with kāfur and wash the body entirely for the third time. During the washing, whatever comes out from the body, clean it properly. This last washing goes with kāfur, if you do not have kāfur you can use any good fragrant. It's recommended to repeat washing the body if necessary

in odd numbers.



## Level 4

### The kafan (shroud)

Shrouding the deceased Muslim body after washing is the final stage of preparing the body before transporting it to the graveyard. The preferred Kafan is a white cloth. The Prophet may peace be upon him was wrapped in white kafan as Aisha reported, he further encouraged his umma to wear white clothes and use it as kafan, Ibn ‘Abbas (May Allah be pleased with them) stated that: I heard the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) saying, “Put on white clothes because they are the best; and use them for wrapping your dead. It’s recommended to make three wraps, without Qamees (long shirt) or emamah (turban). The majority of scholars recommend five pieces of kafan for women.

A lot of scholars stated these five pieces:

- 1- izaar (lower garment from waist to feet),
- 2- khimaar (head cover),
- 3- qamees (long shirt),

4-5- and two large pieces of cloth that will cover the entire body.

Another opinion of the scholars indicates that there is no difference between men and women shrouding.

This is because they have weakened the hadith that stated five pieces for women.





### **How to do the kafan:**

1-take the wet towel and wipe the body, so that the shroud does not get wet. Then change the towel, remove the wet towel and replace it with the one that you use to wipe the body.

2-cut the sides of the kafan with a scissor or blade to make 3 or more long ropes for tying the body.

3, Place the three ropes first on a dry and clean platform. One rope should be placed at the head area, one at the middle, and one at the feet. Then placed the three clean kafan on the ropes, and stretched them open to the maximum. Make sure that the three kafan are longer than the body, specially the side of the head. Apply perfume on each kafan.

4, Gently Place the body on the kafan, Make sure when you put the body in the kafan, their awara remains covered by the towel, put the hands on the side attached to the body and straighten it, make sure the feet are close to each other and straighten. Make sure the eyes are close. Apply perfume on the seven areas of the body that touches the floor during shujud.

Some scholars recommend that to Place a piece of cotton into the ears, nose, and in rectum, and cover the face with cotton. This is to prevent any fluid from flooring out. But Some scholars do not recommend that except if necessary due to the condition of the deceased.

5, Take the first kafan and wrap it on the body, start with the right side first then left side. Then remove the towel covered the awra under the kafan. And Then repeat this with the second kafan and the same with the third one. Once the entire body is wrapped, take the rope and tie the head, feet, and middle. The kafan should have extra space on the top and bottom. Pull the kafan right above the head and tie it, do the same for the bottom. To ensure that the deceased does not come out of the shroud. Make sure all the ropes are tied on their left sides, because the right side of the body will be placed down to the grave and the left side will be up, this will give the people easy access to untie the rope in the grave. Also, all the nails and hairs that were rimmed should be placed back in kafan with the body.

This is the final end of the Son of Adam, may Allah grant us a good ending.

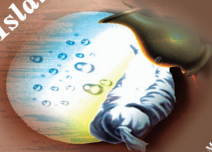
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